CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for electronic factoring, the method comprising the steps of:

    a)   providing an electronic platform for guaranteeing payment of receivables;

    b)   inputting information from users into a profile database upon the electronic platform;

10 c)   assigning buyers a credit limit; and

    d)   guaranteeing payment to vendors for users who purchase from the vendor.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the step of guaranteeing payment to vendors

15 comprises aligning the platform with a guaranteeing financial institution to perform a factoring-type selected from the group of factoring-types consisting of credit insuring, full-factoring, and lending.

3.   The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

    a)   producing a symbol to represent each user's profile; and

20   b)   exchanging information between users via the symbols on the electronic platform.

4.   The method of claim 3 wherein the step of guaranteeing payment to vendors comprises electronically sending the vendor the user's symbol in order to show the vendor that

25 payment is guaranteed by the platform.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

    a) electronically sending the user's symbol to the guaranteeing financial institution; and

    b) sending a guarantee of compensation from the guaranteeing financial institution to the vendor.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of guaranteeing payment to vendors comprises the steps of:

    a) issuing each user an identifying card showing membership on the platform;

    b) purchasing from the vendor with the identifying card; and

    c) accessing the user's credit availability via the platform with the identifying card.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

    a) verifying a user as a member of the platform; and

    b) purchasing from the vendor.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of purchasing from the vendor comprises first searching the profile database with a search engine.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of purchasing from the vendor comprises the steps of purchasing from the vendor with a line of credit within the credit limit established by the profile database.

10.   The method of claim 9 wherein the step of guaranteeing payment to vendors comprises the steps of:

       a)   reassigning the receivable to the guaranteeing financial institution;

       b)   making payment to the platform; and

       c)   forwarding payment from the platform to the vendor.

11.   The method of claim 9 wherein the step of guaranteeing payment to vendors comprises the steps of:

       a)   reassigning the receivable to the guaranteeing financial institution;

       b)   making payment to the guaranteeing financial institution; and

       c)   forwarding payment from the guaranteeing financial institution to the vendor.

12.   The method of claim 9 wherein the step of guaranteeing payment to vendors comprises the steps of:

       a)   accessing the platform directly by the vendor for verification of credit availability; and

       b)   forwarding payment to the vendor upon verification.

13.   The method of claim 9 wherein the step of guaranteeing payment to vendors comprises the steps of:

       a)   accessing the guaranteeing financial institution directly by the vendor for verification of credit availability; and

       b)   forwarding payment to the vendor upon verification.

14.   The method of claim 9 wherein the step of guaranteeing payment to vendors comprises the steps of:

a)   accessing the platform for verification of credit availability;

b)   paying the guaranteeing financial institution for purchase; and

5   c)   forwarding payment from the guaranteeing financial institution to the platform and merchant bank so that the merchant bank can credit the vendor.

15.   The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

a)   maintaining user credit records on the platform; and

10   b)   periodically reviewing credit records by the financial institution for buyer credit availability.

16.   The method of claim 1 wherein the step of linking at least two users comprises the steps of:

15   a)   creating offers by the vendor;

b)   sending the offers to an offer database on the platform for storage;

c)   comparing the offer database with the user profiles in the profile database;

d)   creating a list of matching offers and user profiles; and

20   e)   offering users those offers that match the user's profile upon login.

17.   A method of electronic factoring, the method comprising the steps of:

    a)   assigning buyers a credit limit upon a guaranteeing platform;

    b)   verifying the buyer's identification as a member of the guaranteeing platform;

5   c)   verifying the buyer's credit amount when the buyer attempts to make a purchase;

    d)   subtracting the purchase amount from the buyer's available credit limit upon making a verified purchase;

    e)   notifying the vendor of the purchase order;

10 f)   reassigning the receivable to a guaranteeing financial institution via the guaranteeing platform;

    g)   billing the buyer for the purchase order; and

    h)   forwarding payment to the vendor.

15 18.   An electronic factoring system for guaranteeing payment of receivables, said system comprising:

    an electronic platform;

    a profile database upon the electronic platform for inputting information from users;

20 means for assigning buyers a credit limit; and

    means for guaranteeing payment to vendors for users who purchase from the vendor.

    19.   The electronic factoring system of claim 18 wherein said means for guaranteeing

25 payment to vendors comprises means for aligning the platform with a guaranteeing financial institution for the guaranteeing financial institution to perform a factoring-type selected from the group of factoring-types consisting of credit insuring, full-factoring, and lending.

20.   An electronic factoring system for guaranteeing payment of receivables, said system

comprising:

means for assigning buyers a credit limit upon a guaranteeing platform;

means for verifying the buyer's identification as a member of the guaranteeing

5   platform;

means for verifying the buyer's credit amount when the buyer attempts to

make a purchase;

means for subtracting the purchase amount from the buyer's available credit

limit upon making a verified purchase;

10   means for notifying the vendor of the purchase order;

means for reassigning the receivable to a guaranteeing financial institution via

the guaranteeing platform;

means for billing the buyer for the purchase order; and

means for forwarding payment to the vendor.